

SB NEWSLIN @ ALLBBS \$NLIN.960  
Amateur Radio Newsline #960 06 Jan 1996

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Paragraphs reformatted to correct margin and spacing errors.

NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #960 - POSTED 01/07/96

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. Amateur Radio Newsline is a audio news service distributed via telephone.

This hardcopy version is produced by Dale Cary - WD0AKO from scripts provided to him weekly by Newsline. It is then distributed to on-line services, bbs networks and internet user jointly by Dale Cary and Steve Coletti.

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The audio version of Newsline can be recorded from one of the currently operating lines listed below. This list is kept as accurate as possible. If any changes are not listed, please contact Dale Cary - WD0AKO at the above listed addresses.

#### Audio Version of Newsline

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Los Angeles.....	(213) 462-0008
Los Angeles (Instant Update Line).....	(805) 296-2407
Seattle.....	(206) 368-3969
Seattle.....	(206) 281-8455
Tacoma.....	(206) 927-7373
Louisville.....	(502) 894-8559
Dayton.....	(513) 275-9991
Chicago.....	(708) 289-0423
New York City.....	(718) 284-0752
Melbourne, Florida.....	(407) 768-7447
Houston, Texas.....	(713) 362-4650
Conroe, Texas.....	(409) 525-6250

#### Electronic Hardcopy Version of Newsline

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GEnie.....	m345;1
GEnie.....	m345;3
Dallas Remote Imaging BBS (DRIG).....	(214) 492-7573
In bulletin number 36	
The Midwest Connection BBS.....	(701) 239-2440
In bulletin number 6 of the ham radio conference	
America Online.....	
Ham Radio forum/Ham Radio General File Library	
Delphi.....	
In the ham radio conference	
CompuServe/HamNet.....	HamNet Library 0

True Speech Internet Site

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<http://www.scott.net/~wa4fat>

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( * * * C L O S E D C I R C U I T A D V I S O R Y * * *
( * * * * *
( * The following advisory is not for transmission over *
( * amateur radio. This is just a reminder that the address *
( * for the Newsline Support Fund is: *
( * *
( * Newsline *
( * c/o Andy Jarema-N6TCQ *
( * P.O.Box 660937 *
( * Arcadia, California *
( * 91066 *
( * *

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(\* Again, and as always, we thank you. This ends the closed \*)  
(\* circuit with Newsline report number 960 for release on \*)  
(\* Friday, January 5th, 1996 to follow. \*)  
(\* \* \* \* \* \*)

The following is a QST

The ARRL says it's going to congress to stop malicious interference, the ARRL letter goes weekly on the Internet and an old friend is coming back. Find out which one on a special extended Newsline report number 960 coming your way right now!

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#### ARRL VS. MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE

Topping the news this week is word that the ARRL appears to be getting ready to keep a promise to go the political route to end malicious interference on the ham radio bands. This, in response to the rising tide of unresolved malicious interference complaints filed by the ham radio community. And as a result, an ARRL Executive Committee ad hoc panel has recommended that the League look to Congress for any long term solution.

Writing in the December 26th issue of the ARRL Letter, Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, the Leagues Administrative and Public Affairs Manager says that as a part of the continuing effort by the ARRL to get enforcement action, the League has started to round up support from several congressmen from areas where local hams are experiencing particularly intolerable interference problems. Mansfield says that over the past three years the league has constantly sought action in two cases of repeated and persistent malicious interference. In one case, the local FCC office has been able to at least defuse the situation. But the problem continues in the other with no action on the part of the enforcement arm of the FCC in sight.

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#### ARRL LETTER GOES INTERNET

The ARRL Letter is going weekly on the internet, but current subscribers to the printed version will only be seeing it once a month. The decision to convert to electronic delivery also means that the Letter will now be available free of charge to any ham who has the ability to access the ARRL Home Page on the World Wide Web or several commercial sites. This includes America Online, CompuServe and GEnie.

The league notes that a survey of subscribers in early 1995 indicated an interest in electronic delivery because information delivered that way will be more timely.

Current subscribers to the printed version of the ARRL Letter will

have their subscriptions extended so that they will receive the same number of copies as they would have under the twice monthly mailing. The league is also cutting the annual subscription rate for new mail out subscriptions as well.

A year ago of the Westlink Report ham radio newsletter ceased publication after more than two decades due to declining revenues. With the ARRL Letter going to weekly on the internet and once a month on paper, only Fred Maia's, W5YI Report is left on a twice monthly mail delivered schedule.

The only question left is whether or not W5YI will follow the ARRL and Newsline to the Internet. We posed that question to Fred Maia. He says that he has no plans of going to electronic delivery at this time. Maia is planning to start his own home page on the World Wide Web but he says he is into the printed page to stay.

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#### NYC HAM CHARGED

A ham recently hailed as one of the nations best known dealers in vintage amateur radio gear has been charged with theft and attempted bribery. Harold Guretzky, K6DPZ of Richmond Hill, New York was arrested on December 11th after a sting operation allegedly caught him in the act of receiving stolen property that police say he bribed an undercover officer to steal.

According to published reports, Guretzky who was a civilian employee of the New York City Police Department and who worked at the police radio repair shop was on his job as a repair technician on December 6th when he is alleged to have approached an undercover detective and offered him a \$100 to remove five pieces of test equipment stored in the shop.

With the Queens District attorney's and Police Internal Affairs officers present, the transaction took place and was secretly videotaped. Soon thereafter, Guretzky was placed under arrest with the stolen equipment in his possession.

Ironically, Guretzky also happens to be a trustee of a repeater in Queens, New York that is primarily sponsored by hams who are members of the New York City Police Department.

The investigation of Guretzky's alleged illegal activities is being carried out under the supervision of Sargent Gary Weisbecker of the Queens Internal Affairs Bureau. Assistant District Attorney David W. Lee is prosecuting the case. If convicted on all charges, K6DPZ faces up to seven years in prison.

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#### MITNICK PROBATION HEARING

A probation revocation hearing for computer hacker Kevin David Mitnick, N6NHG, has been set for the end of January. Mitnick is the

alleged computer super hacker who was arrested in North Carolina last February. He has since entered into a plea bargain on federal charges but still faces the probation violation hearing in Southern California.

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#### THIS WEEK IN AMATEUR RADIO COMING BACK

An old friend of many repeater news nets has announced plans to return to the air early in 1996. This Week in Amateur Radio is coming back to the satellite and to a repeater near you. Stephen Anderman, WA3RKB is the Executive Producer of This Week in Amateur Radio:

"An agreement has been reached between the 'Tech Talk Network' and operators of the Canadian Telesat Anik E2 commercial communications satellite. All communications hobby programming of TTN including 'This Week in Amateur Radio', will return to the air in January. The agreement awaits formal signing by the uplink carrier and SKYVISION, which underwrites the network uplink costs.

'This Week in Amateur Radio' carries ARRL Bulletins, contest and convention information, propagation forecast summaries, RAIN, the Radio Amateur Information Network, and of course, Newsline.

Once the agreement is signed, telephone lines will be secured and installation of the network audio uplink equipment can proceed. The network will utilize transponder 18, that's 9B vertical for those using commercial satellite receiving equipment, at 5.8 MHZ wideband analog audio. Anik E2 provides excellent coverage of North America with spot beams aimed at Alaska and Hawaii.

But the best part is that Anik E2 is expected to remain operational into the 21st century and provide a more permanent home for the network. Look for 'This Week in Amateur Radio' to return to the air early in 1996." WA3RKB

Anderman says that as soon as an exact date for the return of This Week in Amateur Radio is set, he will call and let us know. As soon as he does, we will let you know.

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#### XMAS 6 METER OPENING LASTED FOUR DAYS

The Christmas Day 6 meter opening we reported on last week expanded up to two meters and lasted almost a week. It also may have been worldwide throughout the northern hemisphere. As late as Thursday night, December the 28th, reports were showing up on the VHF reflector indicating that single and double hop 6 meter E layer contacts were taking place all across North America, into the Caribbean and into parts of Mexico.

Early on Tuesday the 26th, postings began to show up telling of 700

to 1000 mile E layer contacts on 2 meter SSB and CW. Most of these taking place north to south along the Eastern seaboard. Reports filtering in late in the week indicated that similar conditions were taking place all across Europe and into Asia though few actual contacts were detailed. The opening seemed to end early on Friday the 29th, with no reports of any 6 or 2 meter E skip since then.

The sad part of it all is that FM users seemed totally oblivious to this truly amazing band opening. Though word of it spread quickly within the VHF DX community, when word finally reached the bulk of VHF FM users, most seem totally uninterested in the fact that their ten watt radio had the ability to work the world if they would only go to a simplex frequency and listen. Most seem to have stayed on their local repeaters and simply ignored the possibility of working some truly rare DX.

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#### WEST RESPONDS ON 6 METERS

And speaking about working 6 meter DX, not all new hams coming 6 meters are unaware of the bandplan and not all commercial ham radio schools are diploma mills. So says nationally known ham radio instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA.

West takes issue with claims made by a number of longtime six meter users who say that commercial schools are turning out newcomers who are coming to the band and setting up FM operations anywhere they please. He says that his students know right from wrong when they walk out the classroom door:

"With regard to licensing mills that produce amateur operators that and are not familiar where FM is allowed in the normal portion of the band and where weak signal work is allowed. Here at radio school we take great pain to insure that the students enjoy weak signal operating as well as enjoy the other modes like packet, amateur TV, and of course FM by showing them in class how to operate on these specialized modes. And that every mode on the radio has a specific spot." WB6NOA

West says that he believes it to be the responsibility of every ham radio instructor to do more than just teach code and theory. WB6NOA says that basic operating skills must be a part of the curriculum as well.

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#### IRELAND PACKET CONCLAVE

From overseas, word that Ireland's AFAR who was recently appointed national packet coordinator has invited that nations packet radio community to a meeting. The gathering will take place at the Prince

of Wales Hotel in Athlone later this month. AFAR says that potential packet users who live in a part of Ireland not yet served by packet are especially encouraged to attend.

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#### SAFEX 2B READY FOR LAUNCH

And from Germany, word that SAFEX 2B -- the second part of the new ham radio repeater in space is ready for launch. Most of the equipment has now been taken to Kaliningrad by Thomas Kieselbach, DL2MDE, and Markus Fischer, DG2MJW, and handed over to the Russian space authorities. Once on the Mir, the equipment will be installed in the new "PRIRODA" Module of MIR, which will be launched in March 1996.

The SAFEX 2 station is made up of two parts. First is the 70 cm communications device for direct and repeater voice contacts. Section B services packet radio, and also contains a 13 cm module for broad bandwidth modes like ATV. Some missing parts of this module will be taken to MIR on a later supply missions.

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#### DX - HEARD ISLAND UPDATE

In DX, we have an update on the abortive Heard Island operation that was planned to commence last November and the groups plans for 1996.

As regular listeners know, the 1995 Heard Island operation was canceled due to the unsuitability of the ship chartered and paid for in advance by the DXers. A statement issued by the Wireless Institute of Australia, outlines in detail the problems encountered by members of the Heard Island Group. The report says that they lost more than 165,000 Australian dollars as a result of an obvious con job by the owner of the boat, who at the time of this report had still not been found.

K0IR was the team leader for the planned November trip but he will be unable to participate in the next effort. Responsibility for reorganizing the venture will now be shared by ON6TT and KK6EK.

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#### DX - WAKE ISLAND

The Dateline DX Association has announced that its plans to activate Wake Island from January 24th to the 31st. This will be a one week operation with the intention of taking KH9 off the DX Bulletin's most needed 100 list and at the same time satisfying the large European demand. The call sign to be used will be announced shortly before commencing operations to minimize pirate activity. Operators are AL7EL, WB2DND, KC7V and K4HQI. Activity will be on all



bands including the WARC bands. There will be a major emphasis on RTTY and satellite, as these modes have never been activated from Wake. QSL via:

AL7EL, Tom Harrell  
27257 Nellis Road  
Evans Mills, NY  
13637

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DX - GUAM

And WH6ASW is a teacher on Guam and will be there for the next two years. Begin looking for him on the bands as WH6ASW/KH2 very soon. QSL via G3EZZ.

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YHOTY '96 NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The nominating period for 1996 "Young Ham of the Year Award" is now open. Originally known as the "Westlink Report Young Ham of the Year," this award program, now entering its second decade, is presented annually to a United States licensed Radio Amateur who is 18 years of age or younger and who has provided outstanding service to the nation, his community or the betterment of the state of the art in communications through the Amateur Radio hobby / service.

All nominations must be submitted before June 30, 1996 on an official application. Application forms are available by sending a self addressed stamped envelope mailed to the:

1996 Young Ham of the Year Award  
c/o Newsline  
28197 Robin Avenue  
Saugus, California  
91350

These nominating applications are also available for electronic download from several sites that provide Newsline materials over the World Wide Web and from the general interest ham radio files area on GEnie and America Online.

Sorry, but there is no way for us to respond to packet radio electronic addresses. Too many requests were not deliverable to packet addresses last year. If you want to obtain a nominating form electronically, please do so from one of the commercial services or via the internet. Requests to send to packet mailboxes will be ignored.

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## 1995 LEAP SECOND

And finally, were you aware that 1995 was actually a bit longer of a year than originally planned? That's because the International Earth Rotation Service -- yes, the really is an International Earth Rotation Service -- the service added a leap second to the end of the year. Or was it to the beginning of 1996?

What actually occurred was that a second of time was inserted in the interval between 23 hours, 59 minutes and 59 seconds on December 31st of 1995 and 0 hours, 0 minutes and 0 seconds on January 1st of 1996. So if New Years Eve seemed a tiny bit longer to you, now you know why.

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And for this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at:

NEWSLINE  
P.O.Box 660937  
Arcadia, California  
91066

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF at our editors desk, we remind you that there are only 40 more weeks until we celebrate newscast number 1000. Right now, 73 and we thank you for listening.

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